

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

STEVEN J. VAN RAALTE ET AL

NL000709

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Title: RING NETWORK BEING INSTALLED AS BUS NETWORK

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 8, 9, and 10 to be in the form as follows.

A marked up copy of the claims is included in an appendix following this amendment for the Examiners convenience.

8. (Amended) The ring network according to Claim 1,  
characterized in that the first (200-1) and/or the last node (200-  
5) respectively comprise a loop back terminator (115) for  
connecting the received forward line (105-1, 105-4) with the  
received return line (110-1, 110-4).

9. (Amended) The ring network according to claim 1,  
characterized in that said n-1 cable sections (100-1, ... 100-4)  
form one cable having appropriate cable connectors for being  
connected to the connectors (210, 220) of the nodes.

10. (Amended) The ring network according to claim 1,  
characterized in that the forward (105-1, ... 105-4) and the return  
line (110-1, ... 110-4) of at least one of said n-1 cable sections  
(100-1, ... 100-4) are embodied as optical fibres and that the  
nodes to which said optical fibres are connected comprise at least  
one fibre optical transceiver FOT (210', 220') for transforming an  
optical signal on said forward line ( 105-1...105-4) or on said  
return line (110-1...110-4) into an electrical signal before being  
sent to said network interface (230) or for transforming another  
electrical signal coming from said network interface into another  
optical signal for being sent to said forward or return line.

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment to the claims was made  
solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple defendant form so  
as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of  
patentability and Applicants respectfully reserves all rights they  
may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore  
reserves their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein  
at a later time during the prosecution of this application or  
continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_  
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APPENDIX A  
MARKED-UP CLAIMS

8. (Amended) The ring network according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~  
Claim 1, characterized in that the first (200-1) and/or the last  
node (200-5) respectively comprise a loop back terminator (115) for  
connecting the received forward line (105-1, 105-4) with the  
received return line (110-1, 110-4).

9. (Amended) The ring network according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~  
claim 1, characterized in that said n-1 cable sections (100-1, ...  
100-4) form one cable having appropriate cable connectors for being  
connected to the connectors (210, 220) of the nodes.

10. (Amended) The ring network according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~  
claim 1, characterized in that the forward (105-1, ... 105-4) and  
the return line (110-1, ... 110-4) of at least one of said n-1  
cable sections (100-1, ... 100-4) are embodied as optical fibres  
and that the nodes to which said optical fibres are connected  
comprise at least one fibre optical transceiver FOT (210', 220')  
for transforming an optical signal on said forward line ( 105-  
1...105-4) or on said return line (110-1...110-4) into an  
electrical signal before being sent to said network interface (230)  
or for transforming another electrical signal coming from said  
network interface into another optical signal for being sent to  
said forward or return line.